

GEORGE PETER GARFF AND  
TRYPHENA BRIMHALL AND  
FAMILY



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George Peter Garff

GARFF, George Peter, Bishop of the Wallsburg Ward, Wasatch Stake, Wasatch Co., Utah, from 1903 to 1912, was born June 17, 1870, at South Jordan (now Riverton), Salt Lake Co., Utah, a son of Peter N. Garff and Antomina Sorensen. He was ordained a Seventy May 23, 1896, by Edward Stevenson, filled a mission to the Sandwich Islands in 1896-1899, and was ordained a High Priest and Bishop May 11, 1903, by Rudger Clawson.

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WALLSBURG BIOGRAPHIES

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ensen Garff, born May 5, 1852, at Hosned, H. S., who were staunch converts from Denmark. He married Tryphena Brimhall on December 19, 1895, in the Salt Lake Temple. She was born October 24, 1870, daughter of George Washington and Rachel Ann Meyer Brimhall, of German parentage. She was from Bucyrus, Ohio.

George Garff died February 21, 1928, and Tryphena died May 30, 1961, at the age of 90.

George's parents moved to Draper, Utah, when he was three years old, where they engaged in farming and fruit raising. Here he completed his early education and participated in Church activities.

As a young man he had outstanding athletic ability in baseball, football, running, shotput and track sports, and he believed in clean sports. He also had a natural talent for music.

He was 6 feet 1 inch, had a soldierly bearing and athletic physique, was light complexioned, with kind, blue eyes.

He studied at the U. of U. and the USAC. He met Tryphena, who was a teacher at the preparatory school at the BYA, when he was attending school there. After they were married he taught in the Draper public schools, being very popular with the students. Six months after their marriage they were called to fill a mission to the Hawaiian Islands, to teach in the Church school in Laie, which they accepted, leaving Salt Lake on May 5, 1896.

One experience he valued highly in this mission was in attending a conference on the leper island of Molokai, where, through fasting and prayer, he was able to speak to those people in their language, through the gift of tongues, for 48 minutes. He always was grateful for this divine favor. They served two and one-half years and were released because of Tryphena's ill health. They arrived home in November, 1898.

That winter, Sister Garff's brother, George H. Brimhall, informed them of a teaching position in Wallsborg. George accepted and Tryphena and two children went to Spanish Fork to stay with her mother. In the following summer, George accepted the principalship of the school and moved to Wallsborg.

On May 11, 1903, Brother Garff was or-

dained a High Priest and was set apart by Elder Rudger Clawson to be bishop of Wallsborg Ward.

A very serious accident happened to Brother Garff shortly after being made bishop. He and 20 others went into the canyon in June to try to open a road into Strawberry country. He and his counselor, William A. Nuttall, attempted to move a boulder in the stream. As he did so a pistol fastened to his belt fell from its holster and discharged. He had been impressed to fasten it more securely, but didn't take heed. It fell handle down, hit a rock and discharged, the bullet entering his right breast and coming out under his shoulder blade. A thought immediately flashed through his mind of what he had said shortly after he was made bishop: "I would rather die than to be a block in the wheel."

Brother Nuttall was very anxious to go after the other men. Bishop Garff said: "No, stay with me until the end." Nuttall made him as comfortable as possible under a tree and as Bishop Garff lay there, darkness seemed to close in around him. He felt that when it was completely closed that would be the end of his life. The darkness closed in like a circle, but remained open just above him. As he observed its remaining open and saw the light in the opening, he received the assurance that he would live. Then he let Brother Nuttall go for the men and said he never saw anyone go so fast in all his life. They got him to the doctor, who said his only chance for life was because his body was clean. Through the power of the priesthood and faith and prayers of the ward members he was spared. In three weeks time he attended quarterly conference, where President J. R. Murdock called on him to speak.

He discontinued being principal and engaged in the mercantile business and farming. Although he had many responsibilities in community activities, his church work came first.

He encouraged music, sports, dancing and dramatics. Baseball teams and those in other sports used his pasture land. He organized celebrations for the 4th and 24th of July. His wife was right along with him in these activities and made gallons of ice cream for these events.

She entertained visiting Church visitors

George Peter GARFF

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in her home and co-operated with her husband in everything he did to improve the community. She was blessed with natural wisdom, a fine intellect and a keen intuition. She was proud of her husband's work in the gospel and with the people.

Seeing the need for increasing the educational opportunities of the children, he encouraged the people of Wallsborg to bond for a new building and spent many hours working to complete the four-room building which was added to the two-room school house. Blue prints for a new chapel had been made at the time of his leaving Wallsborg.

He was a man of great faith, power in the Priesthood and had tremendous courage. Was always ready to assist in time of need. In the home, home evenings were held regularly in which the children participated.

They left Wallsborg in September 1911, to make their home in Lehi, Utah.

The children of George Peter Garff and Tryphena Brimhall are: Rachel Minnie, Grace Thelma, Mary Brimhall, George Lynn, Mark Brimhall, Major Peter, Ina Tryphena, Wayne Brimhall, Joseph Elmo.



George Peter Garff

## Mark B. Garff

Mark Brimhall Garff, a good man and an able builder, died in Salt Lake City on May 29, 1995 at the age of 88.

Born in Wallsburg, Utah on May 4, 1907, he was the son of George Peter and Tryphena Mayer Brimhall Garff. He attended school in Lehi, Bountiful and Salt Lake City, playing halfback for the LDSU football team. He served as an LDS missionary in Denmark from 1929 to 1932.

On October 11, 1935, he married Gertrude Laura Ryberg in the Salt Lake Temple. At the time



of his marriage, he was serving on the High Council of the Granite Stake under President Hugh B. Brown. In 1937, at the age of 30, he was called as president of the Danish Mission. In 1939, He and Elder Joseph Fielding Smith organized the evacuation of most of the European LDS missionaries via Denmark at the outbreak of World War II. He served as a member of the LDS General Welfare Committee for 18 years, as an assistant high priests group leader in the Highland Stake, and as a Sunday School and priesthood teacher in the Parleys 6th Ward.

As founder and senior partner of Garff, Ryberg & Garff Construction Co., he was involved in the construction of many major buildings along the Wasatch Front, including the George Albert Smith Fieldhouse and the Wilkinson Center at BYU, Orson Spencer Hall at the University of Utah, Merrill Library at USU, and the Kennecott Building in Salt Lake City. In 1965 he became chairman of the LDS Church Building Committee serving for six years, during which time the LDS Church office building and the Washington D.C., Ogden and Provo Temples were begun. In 1973 he formed Mark B. Garff Construction Co. with his two sons. In 1986 he was awarded the Eric W. Ryberg Award by the Utah Chapter of the Associated General Contractors of America for his service to the construction industry.

Mr. Garff served as a member of the executive committees of the Danish-American Rebuild National Park Society and Utah-Idaho Sugar Co. He was president and director of Deseret Federal Savings, vice-president and director of Deseret News Publishing Co., member of the Salt Lake City Chamber of Commerce advisory council, and member of the Salt Lake advisory board of First Security Bank. He also served as president of Bonneville Knife and Fork Club and was a life member of Sons of Utah Pioneers.

He was faithful, energetic, a skilled craftsman, cheerful, and a respected teacher and advisor to many. His workmanship and standards will endure. He loved boating, fishing and the out-of-doors. He enjoyed reading, quoting and writing poetry.

He is survived by his widow and five children: Mark R. (Judy); Charlotte (Theodore M. Jacobsen); and William R. (Karen), all of Salt Lake City; Georgia (David W. Owens) of Walnut Creek, Calif.; and Laura (Robert D. Lewis) of Petaluma, Calif. Also surviving are 21 grandchildren; five English "grandchildren", four great-grandchildren; a sister, (Ina Cannon), and three brothers (Major, Wayne and Elmo). He was preceded in death by a brother, three sisters and a grandson.

Funeral service will be held at noon on Friday, June 2 at Parleys 6th Ward, 2350 So. 2100 East, SLC. Friends may call Thursday evening from 6-8 p.m. at Wasatch Lawn Mortuary, 3401 So. Highland Drive, SLC, and Friday at Parleys 6th Ward from 10:45-11:45 a.m. In lieu of flowers, the family suggests contributions to the Danish Scholarship Endowment Fund, c/o LDS Foundation, Box 27188, Provo, Utah 84602.

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## Mark B. Garff dies — ex-LDS building chief

Mark B. Garff, 88, former contractor, chairman of the LDS Church Building Committee and



Mark B. Garff

member for 18 years of the Church Welfare Committee, died May 29, 1995, at Holladay Health Care Center.

Mr. Garff, who headed the building committee for six

years beginning in 1965, suffered a stroke in 1984 and had been incapacitated since that time.

Before becoming chairman of the building committee, he founded and was senior partner of Garff, Ryberg & Garff Construction Co.

The firm constructed many major buildings along the Wasatch Front, including the George Albert Smith Fieldhouse and the Wilkinson Center at Brigham Young University, Orson Spencer Hall at the University of Utah and the Kennecott Building.

During his administration of the church committee, construction was started on the Church Office Building and the Washington, Ogden and Provo temples.

Fred A. Baker, committee vice chairman and Garff's successor as chairman, said Mr. Garff's greatest love as a builder was the Salt Lake Temple, which received his full

concern whenever it needed attention. When he was chairman, buildings were being built by the church building missionary system.

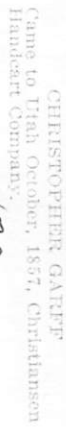
Mr. Garff was a director and vice president of the Deseret News Publishing Co., president and director of Deseret Federal Savings and a director and member of the executive committee of Utah-Idaho Sugar Co.

In 1986 he was presented the Eric W. Ryberg Award by the Utah Chapter of the Associated General Contractors of America for his service to the construction industry. Early last year, President Thomas S. Monson, then second counselor in the First Presidency of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, presented Mr. Garff with a plaque in recognition of his work in "strengthening the foundations of the modern church welfare program."

Mr. Garff served as president beginning in 1937 of the Danish Mission. Two years later he and then Elder Joseph Fielding Smith organized the evacuation of most of the European LDS missionaries via Denmark at the outbreak of World War II.

Funeral will be at noon Friday in the Parleys 6th Ward chapel, 2350 S. 2100 East. Friends may call from 6 to 8 p.m. Thursday at Wasatch Lawn Mortuary, 3401 Highland Drive, and from 10:45 a.m. to 11:45 a.m. Friday at the church. Burial will be in Wasatch Lawn Memorial Park.





CHRISTOPHER GATTE  
Came to Utah October, 1857, Christianson  
Hardware Company.  
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PETTER NIELS GAFF  
Born Feb. 17, 1883, Sorslow, Holbeck, Am.  
Denmark. Came to Utah Territory, 1887.  
Christianson Hardware Company, 1900.  
73d Quorum Seventies. 4-70

GARRETT, DEWEY N. (son of Nels Garft, born Jan. 29, 1811, and Marie Jackson, born Dec. 9, 1829, both of Lislebø, Sjælland, Denmark; former died on plains, latter came to Utah). He was born Feb. 17, 1843, Serslev, Hørbæk amt, Sjælland, Denmark. Came to Utah 1857. Christiansen's handcart company.

Married Antonia Sorenson July 26, 1869, Salt Lake City (daughter of Lars Sorenson and Marien Kerstine Petersen of Bjergby, Hjørring, Denmark, pioneers 1861, Samuel A. Wooler company). She was born May 5, 1852. Their children: George P. b. June 17, 1870, m. Phena Erasmith; Mary Ann b. Dec. 28, 1871, m. R. P. Fitzgerald; Huldah I. Jan. 21, 1873, m. E. C. Mickelson; Mathilda b. April 1, 1874, m. E. M. 1873, m. E. C. Mickelson; b. Feb. 10, 1876, m. Louisa Murray; Crossgrove; Heber N. b. Feb. 10, 1876, m. Rachel Day; Moses S. b. Nov. 10, 1879, m. Mary Rasmussen; Aaron Z. b. March 29, 1881; Minna C. b. May 7, 1883, m. S. J. Mickelson; Orlon A. b. March 2, 1885, m. Bodel Lynneby; Connie M. b. Sept. 8, 1887, m. Enno Brown; Reginald W. b. May 6, 1890. Family home Draper, Utah.

Senior president 73d quorum seventies; high councillor; acting teacher since he was 18 years old; assisted in bringing immigrants to Utah in 1866; was one of a company of 500 who brought in about 4,100 people. As trustee he successfully established the first free public school at Draper (the Park school), and at Crescent taking the millroads \$1,800, which was used in supplying Draper with its first school house. School trustee. Teacher and superintendent of Sunday school at Draper 25 years; missionary to Linton, Brown county, Minn., where he organized a branch of the church; missionary to Norway, where he baptized 27 persons, 15 of them young ladies, who were organized into first Y. I. M. A. in Bergen, Norway; there he served as president of the conference in 1899, and until near the end of his mission, returning in 1902; home missionary; high councillor. Farmer and horticulturist.

**GARFF, PETER N.** (son of Nels Garff, born Jan. 20, 1811, and Marie Jacobson, born Dec. 9, 1820, both of Eskebjerg, Sjælland, Denmark; former died on plains, latter came to Utah). He was born Feb. 17, 1843, Serslov, Holbek amt, Sjælland, Denmark. Came to Utah 1857, Christiansen's handcart company.

Married Antomina Sorensen July 26, 1869, Salt Lake City (daughter of Lars Sorensen and Maren Kerstine Petersen of Bjergby, Hjørring, Denmark, pioneers 1861, Samuel A. Woolley company). She was born May 5, 1852. Their children: George P. b. June 17, 1870, m. Phena Brimhall; Mary Ann b. Dec. 28, 1871, m. B. F. Fitzgerald; Huldah b. Jan. 23, 1873, m. F. C. Mickelson; Matilda b. April 1, 1874, m. B. M. Crossgrove; Heber N. b. Feb. 10, 1876, m. Louise Murphy; Royal B. b. Oct. 23, 1877, m. Rachel Day; Moses S. b. Nov. 10, 1879, m. Mary Rasmussen; Aaron Z. b. March 29, 1881; Mina C. b. May 7, 1883, m. S. J. Mickelson; Orson A. b. March 2, 1885, m. Bodel Lyngby; Connie M. b. Sept. 8, 1888, m. Enno Drown; Regnald W. b. May 6, 1890. Family home Draper, Utah.

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